

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 EUR-12 NEA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00
DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05
PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 ACDA-07 AID-05
SSO-00 /114 W
-----024342 090530Z /14

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FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5545
INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DJIBOUTI
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI
AMEMBASSY SANA
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
USINT HAVANA
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER
AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE

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E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PDIP, ET, SO
SUBJ: ETHIOPIA SEVERS DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH SOMALIA

1. ETHIOPIAN MEDIA REPORTED FULL TEXT OF PROVISIONAL
MILITARY GOVERNMENT (EPMG) SEPT 7 ANNOUNCEMENT SEVERING
DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS BETWEEN ETHIOPIA AND SOMALIA.
ANNOUNCEMENT CITED SOMALI VIOLATIONS OF OAU AND UN CHAR-
TERS, DISREGARD FOR DECISIONS OF BOTH ORGANIZATIONS
BASED UPON RESPECTIVE CHARTERS, FULL-SCALE WAR OF
AGGRESSION LAUNCHED SINCE JULY 23, BEHAVIOR OF SOMALI
DELEGATION AT AUG 5-8 OAU GOOD OFFICES COMMITTEE MEET-
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ING, ARMING, TRAINING AND INFILTRATION OF TERRORIST
GROUPS AND BANDITS OVER LONG PERIOD OF TIME, RECENT
INVOLVEMENT OF REGULAR TROOP UNITS TO CARRY OUT EX-
TENSIVE TERROR AND SABOTAGE IN EASTERN AND SOUTHERN
ETHIOPIA, AND EPMG CONCLUSION THAT CONTINUATION OF
DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS BETWEEN TWO COUNTRIES WOULD
SERVE NO USEFUL PURPOSE. SOMALI CHARGE' D'AFFAIRES

AND OTHER EMBASSY STAFF, EXCEPT LOCALLY RECRUITED PERSONNEL, GIVEN 48 HOURS TO LEAVE ETHIOPIA.

2. SOMALI EMBASSY AND RESIDENCE HEAVILY GUARDED EVENING SEPT 7 AND MORNING SEPT 8 TO PROVIDE PROTECTION TO PERSONNEL. NO INCIDENTS REPORTED, AND WITHDRAWAL EXPECTED TO BE UNEVENTFUL. RESIDENT SOMALI DIPLOMATS HAVE RAISED QUESTION OF BREAK IN ETHIO-SOMALI RELATIONS PAST FEW WEEKS AND EXPRESSED EXPECTATION IT WOULD OCCUR. PERHAPS IN ANTICIPATION, ALL THEIR FAMILY MEMBERS EVACUATED PREVIOUSLY AND AMBASSADOR LEFT SOME TIME AGO. ETHIOPIAN DECISION WILL NOT APPARENTLY AFFECT SOMALI NATIONALS EMPLOYED AT OAU OR UN AGENCIES. IT NOT KNOWN IF SOMALIS HAVE DESIGNATED THIRD COUNTRY EMBASSY TO LOOK AFTER THEIR INTERESTS.

3. COMMENT: BREAK IN ETHIO-SOMALI RELATIONS NEITHER UNEXPECTED NOR SURPRISING, GIVEN EVENTS OF PAST TWO MONTHS. MOST OBSERVERS HAVE WONDERED WHY IT HASN'T HAPPENED BEFORE. ONLY QUESTION IS WHY EPMG CHOSE THIS PARTICULAR TIME TO MAKE BREAK AND FOR THAT WE HAVE NO READY ANSWERS. EPMG MAY HAVE CONCLUDED THAT IT HAS NOW SUFFICIENTLY ESTABLISHED ITS CASE BEFORE THE WORLD THAT IT IS VICTIM OF AGGRESSION BY NEIGHBORING COUNTRY, USING REGULAR SOMALI FORCES.

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WESTERN JOURNALISTS ARE ALSO SPECULATING THAT MEN-GISTU MAY TAKE OCCASION OF HIS SPEECH AT PUBLIC CELEBRATION OF REVOLUTION DAY SEPT 12 TO DECLARE FORMAL STATE OF WAR WITH SOMALIA. CERTAINLY, RELATIONS BREAK IS LIKELY TO MAKE FUTURE MEDIATION EFFORTS BETWEEN TWO COUNTRIES MORE DIFFICULT AND MAY WELL HAVE BURIED WHATEVER REMAINING HOPE SOVIETS MIGHT HAVE RETAINED OF FORMING CONFEDERATION OF NEIGHBORLY SOCIALIST STATES AT ENTRANCE TO RED SEA.

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Sent Date: 08-Sep-1977 12:00:00 am
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Decapton Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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